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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Legislative Counsel

ATTENTION: Mr. George Cary

SUBJECT: Peking Meeting Between American Negroes
and Communist Chinese

REFERENCE: Mr. Sourwine's Request for Information
on Above

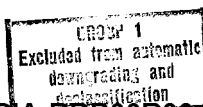
1. We have no information that any meeting of a formal and specific nature has taken place in Peking between American Negroes and representatives of the Chinese Communist Party or Government. What information exists in this frame of reference is limited to that reported publicly by Radio Peking and NCNA. These date back to about August 1963 when NCNA published a statement by Mao Tse-tung where he "called on the people of the world to unite against racial discrimination by U.S. imperialism and support the American Negroes in their just struggle against racial discrimination." In NCNA's report of 8 August 1963, Mao precludes his statement with the following:

"An American Negro leader now taking refuge in Cuba, Robert Williams, the former president of the Monroe, North Carolina Chapter of the NAACP, has twice this year asked me for a statement in support of the American Negroes' struggle against racial discrimination. ..."

In the context of the complete statement, the following "historical" references to actions by the American Negro are made by Mao Tse-tung:

"In 1957, the Negro people in Little Rock, Arkansas, waged a fight against the barring of their children from public schools. ... in 1960,

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Negroes in more than 20 states held 'sit in' demonstrations. ... in 1961, the Negroes launched a campaign of 'freedom rides'. ... in 1962, the Negroes of Mississippi fought for the equal right to enroll in colleges. ... The struggle of the American Negroes this year (1963) started in early April in Birmingham, Alabama ... the American Negro organizations have decided to start a freedom march on Washington 28 August."

2. On 14 August 1963, NCNA reported that "Frank Coe, an American, made a twenty-minute speech praising Mao Tse-tung's statement in support of the American Negroes and describing the American Negroes' struggle for civil rights and racial equality." (Frank Coe is identified as an American Negro.)

3. On 26 August 1963, NCNA, under a Havana dateline, published the "text of an article by Robert F. Williams, an American Negro residing in Cuba, entitled: 'Mao Tse-tung's Emancipation Proclamation for Afro-Americans.'"

4. There was no explicit mention of American Negroes being in Peking or in making additional statements amplifying the above in 1963.

5. This year, on 8 August 1964, Peking Radio's Domestic Service in Mandarin, carried a live speech in English (translated into Mandarin) by, in context, "American friend Comrade Frank Coe at a Peking rally on 8 August 1964." In this speech, according to NCNA, Mr. Coe stated that "one year ago today Comrade Mao Tse-tung issued his historic statement calling upon the world to unite and oppose the racial discrimination practiced by American imperialism."

6. On 10 August 1964, NCNA's International Services reported extensively on demonstrations in Harlem, New York City; Elizabeth and Paterson, New Jersey; Rochester, New York; St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri. The NCNA also reported that meetings were held in Shanghai, Canton, and many other Chinese cities to "support the struggle of the American Negroes", and that these meetings "marked the first anniversary of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's statement calling for a worldwide united struggle against U.S. imperialist racial discrimination."

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7. The 3 October 1964 NCNA report of the 1 October Anniversary Celebrations in Peking mentioned the presence of Robert Williams in Peking for this event.

8. We are informed by another government service that there is a New York pro-Chinese Communist faction of the Communist Party USA which has split from the parent CPUSA. This splinter group is reportedly made up of Negroes. No further information is known of the specific contacts this group may have with Peking or whether its members have met in Peking with the Chinese Communists.

9. The above represents all the information available to us, and in our judgment Mr. Worthy's article in Esquire magazine most probably leaves a false impression about a meeting in Peking between American Negroes and Chinese Communists.



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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

6 Oct 64

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

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OFFICER'S
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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

Assistant Legislative Counsel

OGC 64-3851

2.

ATTENTION:

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SSW

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3. Jay Lawrence made a request for something along these lines. He has not raised it again. Since this has civil rights aspects or could be used in a civil rights issue by Eastland I suggest that we hold it against the possibility of a further request.

gll

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